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June 24, 2010

Federal Election Commission 999 E. Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20463

Attention: Jeff S. Jordan

Re: Lynch For Congress C00446468

Mr. Jordan,

I am writing this in response to false allegations and representations made by a former volunteer campaign staffer. This staffer was brought on board and her main responsibility was to take control of filing the campaign's financial reports. It was her contention that she had extensive experience doing so for a present member of congress and that she was qualified to do so.

With response to the allegation that personal funds loans disclosed as having been received by the committee in the sum of \$29,800 and subsequent funds of \$50,000 were never deposited is completely false. The original amount of \$29,800 was deposited into the original account which was under my social security number and not the present account. While we were waiting for the FEI number we had to open the account to pay the qualifying fee. This deposit was a cash deposit from personal funds. In addition, since this was my first run for office, I was unaware of how much was needed to seed the campaign so I set aside a loan of another \$50,000 bringing the total to \$79,800 that I personally loaned the campaign until such time that the campaign would be able to raise the money to pay back the loans. Ms. Botta was made aware of these loans when she came on board. Clearly, there had to be more money in the account than what was raised since we did not even raise enough funds through contributions to even pay for the qualifying fee and there were many, many items that were paid for such as lawn signs, road signs, tee shirts, handouts, bumper stickers, advertising, hats, business cards, letterhead, office supplies, office expenses, etc.

With regard to the claim that the amounts do not agree with what was filed and that some intentional misdirection was used is completely false. During the 2008 campaign, being new to politics, I worked very diligently to insure that all of the filings were done

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properly. I worked long and hard and called our representative, Jeff Pope many times due to the fact that we were constantly having problems with the filing program. At this time, Mr. Pope mentioned that the program was new and was having some problems and we would work through many issues just to get the program to accept the data. Many times there would be no category for items and the program would not accept certain items unless information was provided although there was no information to put in. For example, the loan that I gave to the campaign needed an interest rate and repayment date of which there was none officially. Therefore, we had to put something into the mandatory fields. During our last campaign, it was a special election and there was no specific designation for a special election and it did not fall into any available "drop down" category so that was something that we worked with Seth Kaye for a long time to resolve.

During the most of our first campaign we were always understaffed and did our best to make sure everything was taken care of and with the problems with the software there were times that we did not make the filing deadline. In addition, I was misinformed when I asked if we had to file a pre-primary and post primary report since I did not have any primary due to having no primary opponents.

With regard to loan payments not matching up and monies being used for personal purposes, this is completely false. When I had gone to Haiti after the earthquakes to set up medical clinics, the campaign had to take out loans to cover costs while we were waiting for contributions that were made by credit card to come in from the company that we used for online credit card contributions. During our special election, this company changed from paying every 2 weeks to paying every 30 days and this was unexpected. These loans had to be repaid immediately as soon as the credit card funds came in. They were, in fact paid immediately upon receipt of funds. I was unaware of this situation since there was no way to communicate from Haiti during the disaster. As far as any loans that I originally, personally made to the campaign, we as a campaign, including Ms. Botta discussed the issue and decided that, instead of taking a chance that the campaign would not have enough money if the total loans were repaid, it would be best to pay the loans back to me in as small increments as possible. Every single item that had anything to do with me personally was accounted for and went to repay any monies owed to me personally. It is critical to note that, to date, all of the loans that I personally made to the campaign have not been repaid. In fact, only a small percentage of the loans that I made to the campaign were ever paid back and may likely never be paid back. I did put in monies and purchase items for the campaign that were not loans and did not have to be paid back.

With regard to missing receipts, there were times during the course of the campaign where some receipts were either misplaced or lost since there were so many people volunteering on the campaign, which is why mostly all items were put on the bankcard



when possible. With the use of the bankcard we could make sure that we had a record of ALL transactions that occurred in the campaign with campaign funds.

At times, the campaign was able to make some re-payments of a small portion of personal loans which were very well documented and were always listed as "loan repayment". Again, it is critical to note that the campaign still has not paid back all of the monies that I loaned the campaign to cover costs.

With regard to selling a vehicle that I had to loan additional campaign funds, this is completely true. The campaign needed funds to purchase signs. I sold a vehicle that I had and deposited the whole check into the campaign account to cover costs for the signs to make sure that the funds would be cleared in time. To date, the campaign has never had a check come back for insufficient funds. As soon as the funds cleared and we received monies from our credit card vendor, the campaign paid back "most" of the money that I loaned the campaign in that case. To date, the campaign has not paid back that balance of the loan of \$5,000 that I put in.

The only reason that we used the "check card" was to make sure that we had an accounting of everything that went on with the campaign. In fact, there were times that the only person that had access to the check card was Ms. Botta.

With regard to "lunch" being purchased "every day" for myself and "the campaign manager", this is partially true. Our campaign staff grew significantly as the campaign went on. There were a few volunteer staff members that worked full time and, at times, more than full time. For the VOLUNTEERS that came in 6 or 7 days a week, the campaign would buy them lunch and sometimes we would buy the VOLUNTEERS dinner as well. These were not fancy meals and usually consisted of fast food and/or pizza. Many times I was too busy to even eat and during the course of the 2 1/2 years that I ran for US Congress I actually lost approximately 15 pounds. With regard to our campaign manager going with me, for obvious reasons of being able to have private conversations, she would occasionally go with me to pick up the lunch or dinners. Since we had an open office and we were quite busy, many times the drive to pick up lunch would be the only time that I would be able to have private conversations with the campaign manager or other senior staff to discuss campaign strategies. For obvious reasons, we felt the need to do so, especially considering Ms. Botta making up false accusations and, not only giving this information to the FEC but also giving the same information to our opponents and groups that endorsed us.

It is clear that Ms. Botta had an ax to grind and, as happens in campaigns, was disgruntled for some reason. It could be that she was sent to us as a plant by our opposition as she is a member of the opposite party. It could be that she was disgruntled because she never quite fit in with the rest of the staff due to her abrasive personality. It could be that she did not feel included enough in campaign strategies, for obvious



reasons. Whatever the reasons for her false accusations, the one thing that is crystal clear is that there was never, ever any intention to hide or use any monies for personal use as is verified by the fact that every single penny of campaign funds can be accounted for and was with the use of either a check or checking account check card which has a monthly statement verifying EVERY single transaction. In addition, any claim of a personal financial gain is completely refuted by virtue of the fact that the campaign is still indebted to me personally for tens of thousands of dollars. I have been very careful with the people's money even to the point of making sure that any contributions made to the campaign after our loss was not accepted. In addition, Ms. Botta was given FULL access and complete control to make sure that we were compliant with the FEC filings and she was given the job of working with Seth Kaye to straighten out any filing issues that we had. In conclusion, rather than taking larger sums of money out of the campaign, we as a campaign, decided that it would be best for the campaign to pay back any loans to me as slowly as possible. Any funds that were paid to repay the loans (again which are mostly still outstanding) were ALWAYS labeled appropriately as a loan repayment and taken off the balance of what was owed.

Should you have any questions or need any further clarification, feel free to call me anytime at

Sincerely,

Edward J. Lynch

Lynch For Congress

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